

18 INCH GUN THREAT TO CANAL DEFENCES

Fear Expressed New Weapon
May Render Obsolete the
Works at Colon End.

MIGHT BLOCK WATERWAY

Use of Isthmus by American
Fleet Dependent on Land
Fortifications.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 7.—Reports that at least two foreign navies have adopted eighteen inch guns for their newest battleships have attracted attention here among army and navy authorities, particularly with reference to the defenses of the Panama Canal. Fear is expressed that the rapid progress of military devices may render virtually obsolete the projected land fortifications at Taboga Island, at the Colon end of the canal.

This island has been selected as a site for important defensive works. The central idea is to mount guns of sufficient power there to serve as a protection against hostile fire which might be directed at our battle fleet coming out of the canal to engage an enemy fleet. It is obvious that the American fleet would be at a great disadvantage were an engagement to open under these circumstances. The American fleet would have to come out in column formation, head on, and the vessels of an enemy fleet could be so distributed in arc formation as to concentrate their fire on each individual American ship as it steamed through. Thus the American dreadnoughts might easily be torn to pieces by concentrated salvos of heavy shells before they could get into any sort of battle formation.

Advantage Rendered Nil.

It is, of course, realized here that a hostile fleet would seek to engage the American fleet under such circumstances if possible, and the only escape for the American fleet would be not to steam through the canal, thus permitting blockades a far inferior naval force to block the military advantage of the canal itself. Naval experts regard the canal as the key permitting our battleship fleet to operate at its own option in the Atlantic and the Pacific. It is no thought of dividing the fleet it is all the more essential for the gateway to the two oceans to be kept open.

Ordnance experts of the army and navy have long agreed that the general plan of making fortifications at the entrance of the canal of such formidable character that they would assist the fleet in going through by keeping any hostile fleet at a safe distance. But these calculations were worked out before the tremendous increase of range was shown by the present war. The fear now looms up that the supporting armament on Taboga Island might be subjected to such concentrated fire at great range that it might be battered to pieces before a naval engagement took place. Military experts say it comes down more or less to a question of hidden mortars against the heaviest type of naval guns. Just what the mortars are capable of doing is not, of course, being advertised, but the authorities here are admittedly concerned about the progress shown by naval armament in the present war.

Shelter From Fire.

This has shown, for example, that the defenses on Taboga Island, even if mounted behind the central ridge, so called, of the island, would not be entirely safe from the fire of vessels. The exact position of the guns on the island has not yet been determined, but military experts counted on placing them in such manner that they would be sheltered from fire in any direction, but in view of the developments of the present war it is seriously doubted in some quarters whether this is possible.

It is pointed out by military experts that certain land defenses of Port Arthur were assumed to be the greatest ever known from the fire of the Japanese fleet, but Admiral Togo quickly demolished this illusion. Unable to reach with his heavier guns the vital points of the Russian fleet, he listed his ships to the required number of degrees, obtained thereby a greatly increased range and sent shells after shells crashing into the defenses which were believed to be invulnerable.

The British battleship Queen Elizabeth accomplished results almost as unexpected and revolutionary in the Dardanelles. She sent shells weighing a ton for a distance variously estimated at between twenty-two and twenty-eight miles. Her 15 inch projectiles had an effective range far greater than any one supposed.

Naturally the secrets gathered by the experience and tests of the British navy will be closely guarded except to her allies, including Japan. The developments made in perfecting new heavy German naval guns will alone not be known to the United States unless it is procured by good fortune.

SOCIALISTS FAIL TO UNITE.

Two Day Conference Ended by
Fight Over Craft Unionism.

The differences between the Socialist party and the Socialist Labor party, at this time at least, have proved irreconcilable. After a two day conference in the World Building between representatives of both sides in the hope of amalgamating them negotiations were broken off last night.

The delegates became deadlocked over the question of craft unionism vs. industrial unionism. The Socialist Labor party wanted craft unionism condemned. When this was refused the delegates accused the larger party of kowtowing to the American Federation of Labor for its votes.

The Socialist party said that it should not interfere in labor union matters. This is the third unsuccessful attempt to amalgamate the two parties since the split sixteen years ago.

Why wait for
everybody else? You're
only a "me too" already.
Start to-day by trying

**JEAN
VALJEAN
CIGARS**
Truly a Cigar

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CATHOLICS PLAN CAMPAIGN.

Will Start Jan. 28 to Win Converts
to the Faith.

A great church campaign is to be undertaken at St. Patrick's Cathedral from January 28 to February 11. The mission is to be directed to persons not Roman Catholics and will have the active cooperation of the Knights of Columbus and individual members of the Holy Name. The preachers will be the Rev. Bertrand L. Conway and the Rev. James M. Gillis, both of the Paulist Society.

Districts will be mapped out and placed in charge of divisions of the Knights of Columbus men. Also many members of the society living in Long Island, Newark, Jersey City and Yonkers have pledged themselves to the task of bringing their non-Catholic friends to the cathedral and to the special meetings, which will be held in surrounding districts.

Joseph R. Boldt is chairman of the committee in charge of the plan and Charles Rush is acting as treasurer. An amount in excess of \$3,000 will be raised to finance the meetings.

RED CROSS APPEAL HEADED BY WILSON

President Announces Funds
Are Almost Exhausted and
Greatest Need Exists.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 7.—Americans are besought to refill the almost empty European war relief fund of the American Red Cross in an open letter by Woodrow Wilson, as president of the Red Cross, made public to-day at the society's headquarters.

Accompanying the letter is a statement to the public setting forth that from August 6, 1914, to September 30, 1916, the Red Cross received and disbursed for European war relief \$2,144,968.17, of which supplies used in allied countries represented \$1,121,766.25, and supplies for the central nations \$348,669.48.

The President's letter reads: "Another winter closes around the great European struggle, and with the cold, there comes greater need among soldiers in the fighting line and in the hospitals, and still more among the women and children in ruined homes or in exile. This country, at peace, blessed with prosperity, can hardly imagine the needs, but it can help to meet them."

"Of great importance among the agencies which have expressed our sympathy with suffering humanity among the belligerent nations has been the American Red Cross. This organization of our countrymen has brought relief to every nation in the great war."

"Its skilled workers have cared for the wounded of every army, have gone forth through the desolate Siberian plains to bring help to thousands of prisoners, have fought disease in pestilence ridden Serbia, and have brought hope to countless non-combatants, women and children. Wherever these Red Cross men and women go they are carrying the message that Americans cannot rest without seeking to relieve such suffering."

"Organized, persistent work, like that conducted by our American Red Cross, requires a great deal of money. Since the beginning of the war money has come to us from men and women in all walks of life. We have received checks in five figures and pennies wrapped in unopened envelopes. What we have done with the money is told in the accompanying statement."

"But now our funds are well nigh exhausted. We find ourselves at the point where activities must be seriously curtailed and we must turn away from the heartbreaking appeals brought by every European mail unless by your contribution you help us to continue."

"It is for you to decide whether the most prosperous nation in the world will allow its national relief organization to keep up its work or withdraw from a field where there exists the greatest need ever recorded in history. We leave the decision in your hands, confident of its outcome."

—WOODROW WILSON.

Supplies distributed by the Red Cross are summarized as follows:

Belgium, via Holland.....	\$77,750.92
Belgium, via Holland.....	41,764.50
England.....	159,410.55
France.....	419,184.60
Italy.....	47,888.57
Japan.....	45,727.78
Russia.....	124,872.78
Serbia.....	254,508.47
Total.....	\$1,121,766.25
Austria.....	\$93,336.08
Bulgaria.....	123,831.49
Germany.....	129,029.30
Turkey.....	14,469.82
Prisoners in South Russia and Siberia.....	113,422.87
Total.....	\$348,669.48

St. Patrick's Cathedral, New York City, will be the scene of a great church campaign to be undertaken from January 28 to February 11. The mission is to be directed to persons not Roman Catholics and will have the active cooperation of the Knights of Columbus and individual members of the Holy Name. The preachers will be the Rev. Bertrand L. Conway and the Rev. James M. Gillis, both of the Paulist Society.

STORMY FATE WAITS NAVY OIL LEASE BILL

Senator Phelan Demands Protection for "Equities" of Private Interests.

OBJECTS TO AMENDMENT

Asserts That Intent of Congress Is Ignored in Construction by the Courts.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 7.—With the navy through Secretary Daniels appealing to Chairman Tillman of the Naval Affairs Committee to prevent the passage through the Senate of the Phelan oil leasing bill, which recognizes the "equities" of certain locators on the lands withdrawn from settlement and directs the Secretary of the Interior to make leases with these interests, and each side making charges against the other and the President being appealed to by Senators to take up the matter with his Cabinet and stop the row, the future of the Phelan bill looks very stormy in the Senate. It is expected to come up this week for consideration. Having made his appeal to Secretary Daniels for the bill Senator Phelan came out to-day in a statement for the California private interests that want their "equities" recognized and protected.

"The Navy Department opposes any legislation," says Mr. Phelan, "because the law as it stands has been construed against the bonafide operators."

Intent of Congress Ignored.

After pointing out that the construction by the courts to which he refers has been harsh and has ignored the plain intent of Congress, Senator Phelan says: "It is a matter of importance to distinguish between the law as it has been harshly interpreted and what was intended by the lawmakers and what ought to be."

The amendment adopted by the Senate committee, according to Senator Phelan, is the same as the compromise offered to the Navy Department by the Secretary of the Interior and the oil interests on the one hand and rejected by Secretary Daniels on the advice of the Attorney General, who desires to prosecute all oil claims under the favorable construction of the act which he has adopted.

"This would give the Attorney-General a legal victory, but it would work great individual hardship and injustice," says Senator Phelan.

Affects About 5,000 Acres.

"The whole dispute affects only about 5,000 acres and the navy is given by this arrangement a royalty from a reserve which might otherwise be exhausted by constant drainage by the operation of wells held in patented title by private individuals covering three-fourths of its area." Concluding Senator Phelan says: "The navy has now reserved and available in withdrawn lands 136,000,000 barrels in naval reserve No. 1, and the recent estimates of private engineers place No. 3 as almost equally productive and the shale reserves run into millions more, and when this law is enacted there shall doubtless be further discoveries, so that it is safe to say that unless it is the policy of the Government to lock up the entire oil deposit, present and future, which seems utterly impracticable, this legislation will have the effect of greatly increasing the production of oil and protecting the navy in an oil supply and oil reserves, which every one concedes it should have in abundance and security."

"Under this law the individual citizen will not be exposed to the danger of having explored the barren places and then finding his property withdrawn from under his feet and his expenditure of labor, money, enterprise and skill confiscated without compensation and he be stigmatized as a trespasser and looter of the public domain."

RELIEF FUND CONTROL URGED.

Rabbi Silverman Proposes Government License Agencies.

In Temple Emanuel-EI yesterday urged the Rev. Dr. Joseph Silverman urged that all agencies appealing for or handling funds for war relief be licensed and supervised by the Government. He said that so many agencies ought not to be permitted to make appeals, and that the war relief funds have become so large that they demand the best business methods.

He said that the Americans ought to give \$100,000,000 this year for war relief. He deplored the lack of neutrality in American benevolence, saying that a suffering and hungry man ought to be relieved if possible no matter on which side he fought. He suggested that all relief gifts be put into one fund and administered wherever the need is greatest.

Men's Terry Cloth Robes, \$2.95

For today only. In rich
Jacquard figure designs.
Colors: Blue, Grey and
Tan. All sizes.
Fifth Floor.

Saks & Company

Broadway at 34th Street

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